MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) It has been explained that merchants who have been punished only for simple technical offences need not be disqualified from continuing as ration distributors.

(*c*) The reason is stated in the Press Note dated the 27th June 1946, a copy of which is placed on the Secretary's table.

Ration Cards in Mavelikara taluk.

134. *MR. M. K. NILAKANTAN: Will the Government be pleased to state whether ration is refused to the labourers in certain pakuthies, on account of the fact that they go for harvests and thus they get paddy?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No.

In the case of labourers who get wages in kind during harvests, the Proverthicars concerned certify in the applications for ration cards of such persons that they may not require ration for a certain period. This fact is noted in their ration cards also and the corresponding coupons are cancelled. This is done consistent with the rationing rules in force.

Ration Cards.

135. *MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH: Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons that weighed with them to reduce the minimum number of ration cards to be registered with each retail food grain merchant as per the original rules from 200 to 100?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: It was found that the insistence on the registration by a retail dealer of a minimum of 200 cards, especially in interior areas, would result in the elimination of a large number of retail ration distributors thereby occasioning considerable inconvenience to card holders.

Food Grains.

136. *MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the quantity of rice, paddy and other food grains procured by Travancore from other Provinces and from overseas for the first half of 1946; and

(*b*) the quantity of rice, paddy and other food grains which are expected to arrive from other Provinces and from overseas for the second half of 1946?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) The quantity of rice and other food grains procured for the State till the 30th of June 1946 is given below:

Food grains from other Provinces:	*Tons.*	*Food grains from abroad:*	*Tons.*
Rice:—		*Rice:—*	
From Sind	63,666	...	...
„ Tanjore	9,377	...	...
„ Central Provinces	9,679	...	...
Wheat:—		*Wheat:—*	
From Navanagar	266	...	10,783

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